(b) if so, the number of representations pending with Government regarding Secunderabad Cantonment;

(c) in what manner Government propose to dispose them; and

(d) the details of system to settle claims pending with Defence Ministry from Secunderabad Cantonment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Representations with regard to property issues are examined and decided upon at various levels depending upon the nature of the representation; by the competent authority in each case, after examination of the available records and in the light of the Government policy.

Changes in administration of Cantonment

1499. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any changes in the present system of administration in various Cantonments;

(b) if so, the details of changes proposed; and

(c) whether these changes will be implemented soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Government is reviewing the operation of existing legislation to identify the changes if any which may be needed to the Cantonments Act, 1924. No specific decision has yet been taken in the matter.

HIV Positive cases

1500. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that some of the personnel in army and other para military/security forces who have been on missions outside the country for variable period of time during the last five years have tested HIV positive;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether these persons are still continuing to be in the armed/security forces or their services have been terminated; and

(c) what is the policy of the World Health Organisation and what is the policy of Government of India regarding employment of HIV positive people and also about those who are already in service and have been found to be HIV positive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Twenty six personnel of the Army, on return from the UN Peace Keeping Mission in Cambodia were found HIV positive during the last five years. None of them have developed AIDS till date. These personnel are still in service and are on regulalr surveillance. However, one Master Warrant Officer (MWO) from the Air Force has died of AIDS in Lucknow. The source of his infection could be the repeated blood transfusion received by him in 1989 when he was on an assignment in Botswana. Besides these, two personnel of para military force have also tested HIV positive on return from missions abroad. Of them, one is still in service while the other has been dismissed from service on disciplinary grounds (not on grounds of HIV infection). The World Health Organisation advocates non discrimination with people who are HIV positive. India is one of the signatories to this resolution.

Non-availability of Medicines in Government hospitals

1501. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that patients are facing a lot of inconvenience due